



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

IN REPLY REFER TO:

CMC-MHF
22 Jul 96

WHITE LETTER NO. 08-96

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: All General Officers
All Commanding Officers
All Officers in Charge

Subj: FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS/KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

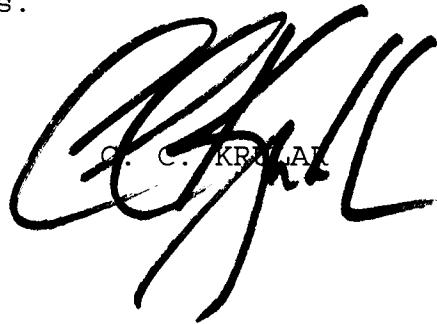
1. The operational tempo of the United States military today, and the Marine Corps role as our National Force in Readiness, necessitates rapid deployment and effective operations in scenarios other than war. Without this capability, our Nation will not be successful in its role as peacekeeper. Operations like Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq, Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and the current situation in Bosnia, have and will continue to demand the best our Corps has to offer.
2. As we know, operational tempo has a significant impact on families. The changing demographics in the last two decades show a dramatic rise in the number of married men and women serving on active duty, and the Marine Corps is no exception. Family obligations and concerns should not diminish a Marine's readiness or availability to go where they are needed. We are a strong community, and we have a network of services and programs that must be maintained on behalf of our families.
3. Within the Marine Corps, the most effective method of communication between commanding officers and family members remains the Key Volunteer Network. The contribution of these volunteers to family readiness during operations is invaluable. They work hard, often at personal expense, to keep family members informed. The key volunteers have earned our appreciation, and commanding officers shall take measures to ensure their continued support.
4. Training for key volunteers is outlined in MCO 1754.2A and should be coordinated with the local Family Service Center. We focus on increasing confidence in Marine families so they can be

Subj: FAMILY READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMS/KEY VOLUNTEER NETWORK

self-reliant, and thus enhance unit readiness. The Family Service Center has a standardized training program which can be modified to include areas that commanding officers find necessary.

5. Headquarters Marine Corps (MHF) has provided a quarterly allocation of funds to major commands that is to be used to reimburse key volunteers for incidental expenses. Given the hours they spend on behalf of the command and the service they provide, this money is well spent on the Key Volunteer Network.

6. I expect commanding officers to follow the provisions of MCO 1754.1A and MCO 1754.2A by funding and training, and most importantly, providing command support to these volunteers. The value of these programs in promoting pride in the Corps and readiness in our troops is beyond measure. As leaders of the finest fighting force in the world, we must recognize that the care and safety of our families is an essential element of our commitment to our Marines.



C. C. KROLL